



**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**  
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20223

Freedom of Information Act & Privacy Act Program  
Communications Center  
245 Murray Lane, SW, Building T-5  
Washington, D.C. 20223

Date: June 3, 2019

MuckRock  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
Attn: Emma Best  
[73086-68977512@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:73086-68977512@requests.muckrock.com)

File Number: 20190776

Dear Requester:

This letter is intended to acknowledge the receipt of your recent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received by the United States Secret Service (Secret Service) on May 23, 2019, for information pertaining to the hacker group known as the "International Subversives", which was made up of hackers going by the aliases Mendax, Trax and Prime Suspect.

Please be advised, your request for a fee waiver will be held in abeyance pending the quantification of responsive records. The FOIA regulations, Title 6 C.F.R., Chapter I, Part 5 § 5.11(k)(2)(3), set forth six factors to examine when determining whether the applicable legal standard for a fee waiver has been met. We will consider these factors in our evaluation of your request for a fee waiver:

- 1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government;"
- 2) Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities;
- 3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requestor or a narrow segment of interested persons;
- 4) Whether the contribution of public understanding of government operations or activities will be "significant;"
- 5) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and
- 6) Whether the magnitude of any identified commercial interest to the requestor is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requestor.

If any responsive records are located, we will consider these factors in our evaluation of your request for a fee waiver. In the event that your fee waiver is denied, we shall charge you for the records in accordance with FOIA regulations as they apply to "media" requesters. The first 100

pages of duplication are free of charge. As a “media” requester, you will be charged .10 cents a page for the duplication of each additional page.

Furthermore, the submission of your request is viewed as an agreement, by you, to pay duplication costs up to \$25.00. A search for files responsive to your request is being conducted. The appropriate components of the Secret Service are being queried for responsive documents. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for a disclosure determination. You will be contacted before any additional fees are accrued.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. As your request seeks documents that will require a thorough and wide-ranging search, the Secret Service will invoke a 10-day extension for your request pursuant to 6 C.F.R., Part 5 § 5.5(c). If you would like to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner. Additionally, per Section 5.5(a) of the FOIA regulations, 6 C.F.R, Chapter I, Part 5, Secret Service processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt.

Your request has been assigned FOIA File No. 20190776. We solicit your cooperation and assure you that the search will be conducted as expeditiously as possible. To check the status of your FOIA request, please contact this office at (202) 406-6370.

Please use the file number indicated above in all future correspondence with this office.

Thank you,

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